



## **The Florida House of Representatives**

### **For Immediate Release:**

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

### **Contact:**

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 487-8148

### **Student Success Act Passes Florida Legislature**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – The student success and teacher quality bill passed the Florida House of Representatives today and is now on its way to the Governor for consideration.

“This is a momentous occasion for our state’s education system,” said Representative Erik Fresen (R-Miami), chair of the House K-20 Competitiveness Subcommittee and sponsor of the bill. “Excellent teachers are the driving force behind student success and this bill provides for a system that recognizes those highly effective educators and rewards them appropriately.”

“By grounding teacher pay raises in fair and meaningful performance evaluations rather than the time they have spent in the profession, we are providing our best and brightest teachers with an incentive to remain in the classroom and continue to deliver a quality education to our state’s children,” added Representative Fresen.

“By passing this legislation we have effectively shifted our focus toward an evaluation system that is based on student learning growth,” said Representative Bill Proctor (R-St. Augustine), chair of the House Education Committee. “This is a significantly important change in our system that will serve to better prepare our state’s children for a successful educational career.”

“I commend my fellow lawmakers today for passing this historic education reform and I thank Representative Fresen for sponsoring this legislation and seeing it through the committee process,” concluded Representative Proctor.

The bill aligns existing law regarding educator performance evaluations with the reforms being implemented through Florida’s \$700 million Race to the Top grant. The legislation also establishes requirements for the implementation of performance-based compensation systems in accordance with the state’s Race to the Top grant. Finally, the bill discontinues the award of new professional service contracts for instructional personnel hired on or after July 1, 2011.

###